

UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Leadership...Service...Accountability

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POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

In Public Schools and/or by Educators

The following are legal and ethical activities:

- 1. Educators may meet together—outside of contract time, even following a required meeting—to discuss political ideas and activities.**
- 2. School buildings and school facilities (meeting rooms, copy machines, school equipment) must be available fairly and even-handedly to all organized groups and points of view. Administrators ARE NOT REQUIRED to notify voucher supporters of upcoming school meetings or events.**
- 3. Educators may provide factual information at school community council meetings, PTA meetings and other voluntary meetings.**
- 4. Educators may inform patrons of political and education issues through school wide websites, newsletters, school TV announcements, etc. Examples: “SLC voters can hear mayoral candidates at 7 p.m. at West High School” or “Pro voucher information is available in the main office.”**
- 5. Educators can explain their personal opinions to parents or patrons on matters of public concern, *upon request*. Extended discussions should occur during non-contract time.**

Educators should avoid the following activities:

- 1. Educators should not contact people about their political positions using school email, mail, school directories or other school resources.**
- 2. Educators should not fund-raise or campaign during contract time or PAID association leave time.**
- 3. Educators should not wear political buttons advocating one viewpoint during contract time. Buttons or t-shirts that advocate “VOTE!” or “We love America” are fine.**
- 4. Educators should not try to convince employees whom they supervise. Answering questions and providing factual information are fine.**